

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113456

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: OAS DEBATES US PROPOSAL
TO CUT CONTRIBUTION FROM 66 PERCENT TO 49 PERCENT. (S/S:

1. MAY 13 DEBATE ON US PROPOSAL TO CUT OAS BUDGET CONTRIBUTION PROVOKED UNUSUAL DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PRESS COVERAGE. PERMANENT COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE DEBATE TOMORROW WITH FURTHER COVERAGE LIKELY. THIS IS THIRD TIME US HAS RAISED THE ISSUE IN RESPONSE TO MOUNTING CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF OUR OUTSIZED SHARE OF ORGANIZATION'S FUNDING. FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT WAS PART OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OAS REFORM PACKAGE DELIVERED AT LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SANTIAGO. LACK OF RESPONSE CAUSED US TO RAISE ISSUE AGAIN IN A LETTER TO SEC GEN ORFILA LAST FALL, REQUESTING SECRETARIAT STUDY OF IMPACT SUCH REDUCTION WOULD HAVE ON OTHER MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS.
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STUDY WAS PREPARED BUT NEVER DISCUSSED. AMBASSADOR MCGEE THEN SENT FORMAL NOTE ON APRIL 26 REQUESTING INSCRIPTION OF ITEM ON PERMANENT COUNCIL AGENDA. DEBATE WAD DELAYED UNTIL MAY 13.

2. ACTING PERM REP WHITE DEFENDED PROPOSAL AGAINST STRONG ATTACK FROM PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR WHO SAID US

MORE ABLE AND LA LESS ABLE THAN EVER TO PAY LION'S SHARE OF OAS COSTS. CHILE AND MEXICO EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR US POSITION AND RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION AT UPCOMING GRENADA GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. WHITE NOTED THAT AGENDA ITEM WAS THIRD EFFORT US HAD MADE TO RAISE QUESTION AND POINTED OUT:

-- PROPOSAL IS IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL REFORM PACKAGE WE SUGGESTED AT LAST GA FOR MODERNIZATION OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, UNDER NEGOTIATION SINCE 1973.

-- REDUCTION WOULD APPLY ONLY TO ASSESSED BUDGET, NOT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.

-- DECREASE WOULD BE PHASED IN OVER PERIOD OF FIVE OR EVEN TEN YEARS.

-- REDUCTION MUST BE APPROVED BY 2/3 VOTE OF OAS MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: REPORTS OF BUDGET CUT PROPOSAL THAT QTE ROCKED OAS UNQTE HAVE APPEARED IN US PRESS AND ARE WIDELY PUBLISHED IN LATIN AMERICA. SOME OAS DELEGATIONS ARE EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT US MEANS TO PRESS FOR THOROUGHGOING REFORM OR PULL OUT OF OAS. THIS IS NOT AN UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT. WE SHOULD PROBABLY PRESS HARD AGAIN FOR SERIOUS ATTENTION TO MANY SHORTCOMINGS OF THE OAS AT THE GRENADA GA. YOU WILL HAVE THEIR FULL CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTENTION. WE BELIEVE YOU MAY WANT TO USE THE BUDGET REDUCTION AS A LEVER WITH OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS TO END COMPLACENCY THAT US WILL CONTINUE INDEFINITELY TO PAY BILLS FOR ORGANIZATION THAT TAKES SO LITTLE NOTE OF OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION IN RESTRUCTURING, DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, PEACEKEEPING AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. LIKE THE MULEDRIVER IN THE STORY, YOU NOW HAVE THEIR ATTENTION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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